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imported for breeding purposes being free. The tax on natural history collections from foreign countries is without exception, because the animals being in bottles, cannot breed.

We are not opposed to a protective tariff under certain circumstances, but we are opposed to a tax on the intellectual development of our people. It is worse than blood-money, it is soul-money. It is a discrimination against the cultivators of thought and mind, and intelligent members of our National Legislature must surely, ere long, see it in this light.

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RECENT LITERATURE.

KNOWLEDGE.¹—We hail with pleasure the advent of a new scientific periodical, devoted not to any one branch of scientific inquiry, but to all, and giving promise, from the character of the issues of the first four months of this year, to prove not only a valuable but also a highly interesting addition to the periodical literature of the English language.

This weekly magazine, ably edited by the well-known astronomer and lecturer, Richard A. Proctor, seconded by numerous scientific men whose names are guarantees of an excellent quality of work, is conceived upon a somewhat different plan to the now well-established *Nature*, to which it bids fair to prove a formidable rival. While *Nature* is principally a scientific newspaper, giving reviews of recent works and notices of current scientific events, *Knowledge* is chiefly occupied with lively short articles upon the topics which at the moment possess most interest. Among these we notice a series of papers in which the editor gives a common-sense explanation of the purposes of the Great Pyramid, refuting utterly the wild fancies indulged in by Piazzi Smith and others, and showing that the passages in the vast pile were most probably formed for the orientation of the pyramid, and used afterwards for astronomical or rather astrological observations during and in connection with the life of Cheops, the king whose sepulchre it finally became. Among other contributors we notice the names of Professor Grant Allen, who in his usual happy style gives us a "Beetle's view of life," and also a series of papers upon "Our Ancestors," the Euskarian or Silure, the Celt, the Teuton; of Dr. Ball, astronomer royal for Ireland; of Dr. W. B. Carpenter, Dr. Andrew Wilson and H. J. Slack, all of them writers whose power of description is equal to their acknowledged acquaintance with the subjects they treat upon. The old prejudice against the popularization of science is rapidly passing away; the leaders in scientific thought, the Huxleys, the Darwins, and their friendly rivals, find time to tell the people some of what they know, with

¹ *Knowledge*, an illustrated Magazine of Science, plainly worded—exactly described. Conducted by RICHARD A. PROCTOR. Wyman & Sons, Gt. Queen St., W. C. London, England.

the full belief that what is good for them is good for all. It is only the little minds, the confirmed scarabeists (to make use of Dr. O. W. Holmes's amusing example), the men who cannot rise above the level of a list of species or an account of the metamorphoses of a monad, that affect to believe that science is a sacred thing, that should, like the mysteries of the Egyptians, be the sole property of a few priests.

Let all, then, who wish for information combined with the entertainment of the highest faculties of the brain, promptly subscribe to *Knowledge*.

ANIMAL ANALYSIS.¹—This work is a series of blanks to be filled by the student, like those which have been introduced into the study of botany with such success. They are essentially necessary to a proper study of zoölogy in schools, and we are glad to see so good a beginning made in supplying the need. We hope, however, that some changes will be made in them as presented in this first edition. The Batrachia and tortoises are omitted—a serious error, since these animals, especially the former, are the most available and most easily analyzed of all the Vertebrata. In the snakes, examination of the teeth is not required—a great omission. Finally the order to which a species belongs is not required, thus losing one of the principal points of diagnosis in the Vertebrata.

BIOLOGISCHES CENTRALBLATT.²—It is not often that a new scientific journal attempts more than to represent either some well acknowledged department, or more frequently some specialty, since every year brings us new specialties clamoring for recognition. The fortnightly publication, which we wish to notice here, is distinctly general in its scope and aim. The first volume, now completed, shows that this periodical fills an unoccupied and important field with marked ability and success. This *Centralblatt*, one of many, attempts chiefly to give abstracts of the *most valuable and important* researches, as far as possible those of general interest; special prominence is given to summaries of the results obtained concerning any subject, our knowledge of which has been increased by several separate investigations. The sciences included are botany, zoölogy, physiology, scientific psychology and a little pathology. The selection of matter has thus far been extremely judicious, so that we have an excellent presentation of the greater part of the most noteworthy current biological discoveries. Indeed we think the *Biologisches Centralblatt* may be justly described as indispensable to the general student. The

¹ *Animal Analysis for use in Schools and Colleges*, especially adapted to accompany Jordan's Manual of Vertebrates. By B. W. EVERMANN. Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago.

² *Biologisches Centralblatt*. Unter mitwirkung von Dr. M. REES, und Dr. E. SELENKA, herausgegeben von J. ROSENTHAL. Vol. I, 8vo, Erlangen. Edouard Bessel, 1881-82.